THE ROLE OF PLANNING AND DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF RURAL-URBAN TERRITORIES

“Territories” specifically face the role of urban and rural development, of urban and landscape design and planning, and the role of architecture, which all have the double task to explain and enfold an actualized view of the territory, and of its future perspectives. The challenges and areas appear highly heterogeneous: urban and rural transformation areas, shrinking and increasing poles, new regional bodies as metropolitan cities, organizations of rural areas, touristic hubs, energy regions, eco-valleys. Moreover, the challenges in economy and society, that Southern Europe is actually facing are regarding cities and rural spaces, as living environments, in a double sense: increasing imbalances between rural and urban societies, together with demographical and ecological changes, provoke shifts and changes in the setup of settlements and landscapes; for territorial effective policies this changed background has to be explained, conceptualized and laid out in communication. Furthermore, the inherent, branded but also hidden potentials and values of territory can be strengthened to foster the resilience of regions facing the crisis. It can be even be taken as starting point for development options, that are based on specific and on general characteristics of today’s built environment. Since the imbalance between rural and urban spaces also in Germany is currently addressed as major challenge, connected to the topics of shrinking areas, stressed centralities (both urban and rural) and to sustainability issues, the dialogue with Southern European experiences and research in the project “Territories” will be of high value for on-going and further research. It addresses as well the level of policy making in the different regions and countries. In general, “Territories” in the frame of “Hochschuldialog mit Südeuropa” aims at a scientific outline for research and application approaches in urban planning and design, related to the territorial dimension. The outline can be both directly project related, but regards as well overall concepts and scientific frameworks. Besides the exchange of concepts and approaches, and the aim to sharpen common research for the Territories between Germany and Italy, the conference aims to include a multidisciplinary focus, that is necessary to refresh the disciplines, which are dealing with the rural-urban and metropolitan spaces. With the scientific conference in Hannover, the research strengths of the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape of Leibniz Universität Hannover are combined with innovative and outstanding approaches from Southern Europe. The involved faculties connect their contributions to the Territories project to on-going research projects (Rurbance, Regiobranding, Re-Cycle Italy, Smart Land).
**PROGRAMMA**

24.11.2016 | ore 9.00

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH DISSEMINATION/PALERMO

Dipartimento di Architettura | Aula Magna

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**TERRITORIES RURAL-URBAN STRATEGIES**

**PROGRAMMA DEI LAVORI**

_9:00

**SALUTI**

ANDREA SCIASCIA, DIRETTORE DARCH

_9:15

**INTRODUZIONE**

MAURIZIO CARTA

_9:30-13:00

JÖRG SCHRÖDER

RURBANCE - TERRITORIAL VISION BUILDING

MAURIZIO CARTA

CREATIVE HYPER-METABOLISM IN THE NEO-ANTHROPOCENE

MADDALENA FERRETTI, SARAH HARTMANN, BARBARA LINO,

LUCIANA MACALUSO, EMANUELE SOMMARIVA

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO A RURAL-URBAN PERSPECTIVE

_14:00 AULA 3.6

**DISCUSSIONE E WORKSHOP**

GLI STUDENTI DEI LABORATORI DISCUTONO CON MAURIZIO CARTA, JÖRG SCHRÖDER,

MADDALENA FERRETTI, SARAH HARTMANN, BARBARA LINO,

LUCIANA MACALUSO, EMANUELE SOMMARIVA

_17:30

**DIBATTITO E CONCLUSIONI**
Maurizio Carta

Rur-urban Anthropocene’s metamorphosis: the re-cyclical urbanism. When Crutzen and Stoermer propagated the term Anthropocene to indicate the consequences on the planet produced by the pervasive presence of human activities since the industrial revolution through the acceleration of territorial, social and climate changes, they never imagined that, in the last twenty years, a massive “anthropo-development” would have produced such anabolic effects able to generate an enormous human footprint on the planet. The human footprint produced a steady erosion of resources, of which the soil is the most obvious and alarming. Beyond the soil, the cultural identities and the vegetation patterns of the habitats were consumed, vital urban and rural metabolisms were anaesthetised, water and waste cycles were interrupted, and mobility became sclerotic and ineffective. It eroded the capacity of urban settlements to entertain ecological and productive relationships with rural land, it sedated the productive and generative capacity of local manufacturing, anaesthetising the endogenous factors of development, and neglected the regenerative value of building maintenance and care of places as circular processes have been interrupted or diverted. After numerous planet’s alarms went unheeded, after crossing many times the limits of growth, often with dramatic consequences, the economic crisis of the past decade — with its virulence that has infected the productive, social, cultural, and even political structures — showed all the critical points of the linear expansive development model.

On the one hand, this process produced the evangelists of the de-growth and development objectors, prompting planners to “disengagement or a crippling sense of guilt” (Sijmons 2014a). On the other it generated active planners and city makers — including us — as proponents of an effective sustainable development, visionary and pragmatic at the same time, and convinced us that we can live in a “good Anthropocene”. We must be able to manage the transition from consumer Paleoanthropocene towards emerging prosumer Neoanthropocene, reactivating the traditional alliance between human and natural components such as co-acting forces, guided by an ethic of the integration of man and nature, and of cities and the environment as collective responsibility against the Global Change, starting from the cities.

The Neoanthropocene — for us a “rur-urban Anthropocene” — challenges us as researchers, educators, and designers to adopt a responsible and militant approach and to have the courage of a metamorphosis that not only reduces the ecological footprint of human activity, but which uses the collective intelligence — the noosphere — that results from new ideas and sensitivity to environment, landscapes, and cultural heritage, spreading globally in a renewed integral ecology that becomes planning protocols, urban devices, and new life cycles (Swilling, Hajer 2016). We must be leaders of a structural change in which cities — in hyper-metropolitan, reticular, and rur-urban patterns — are called upon to reactivate their territorial capital led by an urbanism able to guarantee new forms of convergence among cultural, economic, environmental, and social sustainability. And not only through the adoption of renewed visions of the future or the use of new paradigms, but above all through the effectiveness of the decisions, the quality of projects, and the efficiency of processes.

More advanced urban planning, sensitive to identity-oriented innovation, seeks accountability to regenerate conditions of existence, role, and involvement. And to reconsider its own epistemological nucleus in relation to new sources and forms of knowledge and to revise accordingly its toolbox, replacing some outdated regulatory instruments with more effective design tools capable of acting in concert with the growing number of non-institutional planning practices.
Towards an Architecture of Territories

Jörg Schröder

The theme of food production and “Foodscapes” (Schröder 2016) in the last ten years has become a door opener for larger-scale discussions, alliances, and projects between cities and countrysides based on cultural and political repositioning towards resilient values (see p. 156–161; and Sommariva 2015). [...] 

Three sets of questions can explore a design-based approach — as core of an architectural contribution — to territorial dynamics with diverse socio-economic, cultural, and spatial drivers:

- Why should spatial futures be more strategically shaped, with articulative, organisational, and material innovations? On what basis and how can concepts and frameworks for the observed spatial turn in culture and politics be set up?

- What inputs for territorial development processes and their setup can be formulated by an architectural approach, with architecture’s tradition of cooperation with other scientific and practical disciplines, social, economic, environmental expertise?

- How can the increasing interest in spatial interrelations between societies and cultures be productively addressed?

- How can design for larger scales contribute to an actualisation of images, perceptions, and storytelling of territories in public awareness and debate as well as in politics and policies?

- At which points and with which results can open and processual strategies for spatial development be strengthened by design and visualisation?

The aim of the contribution — and of the whole project “Territories” funded by DAAD — is to start a discussion for a working outline of research towards innovations by an architectural approach — as methodology extended beyond buildings, towards larger spatial scales, for the disciplines of urban design and territorial planning, and beyond: to explain and to re-organise spatial figures and processes in highly complex social, economic, and spatial processes — and to operate more substantially with the factors of space and place, with figuration and structuring, with spatial strategies and territorial agendas. The interest in place and space, explored in the spatial and cultural turns in social sciences in the last decades, formulated as “place-based” development models in economic research, addressed in digital/material interrelations, is calling to reposition architectural concepts of place and space for strategic development frameworks.

This includes possible linkages towards regional, national, and European policies; drawing first-hand inspiration from actual challenges in territorial development, for strategy-building and planning in the dimensions of metropolitan regions or regional alliances emerging all over Europe, which include urban and rural parts in polycentric patterns, as a renewed urban-rural paradigm.
“Territories” address potentials of multiplicities of places in larger scale perspectives, and in a rural-urban view of linkages and cooperation. Territorial and human capital, its valorisation for innovative spatial development and resilience strategies constitutes a field of actually high public and political interest. Extended urban-rural metropolitan regions, new associations of rural areas and middle-city-networks, coastline and mountain settlements are seen not only as target of different policies and places of their realisation, but as active factor and potential for economic, ecological and social futures – discussed in this book for areas in Sicily, Northern Germany, Liguria, Trentino, Catalonia, Campania.

“Territories” introduces innovative design and research perspectives of urbanism, planning, landscape and architecture. It suggests a design-based approach to the dynamics of larger spatial contexts: with the double task to enfold an actualized view of territories, and to synthesize visions of future perspectives: in between spaces and societies. “Territories” displays design and research positions from Italy, Spain, and Germany. In city and countryside, in between metropolises and rural settlements a wide range of spatial figures, patterns, places, of cores and peripheries, are shown as spatial base and crucial field of action for European territorial development.

Opposed to traditional dystopic concepts of urban and rural, “Territories” engages in the potentials of rural-urban interfaces for a vision of rural-urban futures: built on implicit knowledge, and on knowledge gained by design. “Territories” promotes an overall clear shift in public awareness and sectorial policies towards territory-based strategies. “Territories” is targeted towards rural-urban interfaces – in terms of space, function, and significance. How can implicit knowledge be used systematically for these new perspectives and how can knowledge be gained by design? How can this approach contribute to relating development strategies to places and spaces in a new way, with regard both to public awareness and to increasingly separate specialist policies?

The leading themes throughout the book are Territorial Visions: Actual understandings and strategies, relating development projects to a rural-urban perspective (mapping, typologies, comparisons, scenarios, concepts); and Designing Processes: The explicit and implicit roles of architecture, urban and rural design and planning for territorial futures, rural-urban cooperation and governance models (concepts, approaches, tools, strategies).

The research approaches collected in the book are connected to interdisciplinary cooperation, especially with socio-economic and cultural scientists, a editrice nd to cooperation with local experts and stakeholders. The overall aim is set to set into dialogue a large picture of different architectural-urbanistic approaches – on the line between urban and rural – to explain and and to enfold the strengths of our disciplines intotransdisciplinary research. Based on the dialogue between German, Italian and Spanish urban planners, architects and scientists, the cultural differences in spatial planning attitudes and frameworks are presented as incentive for a more differentiated, adapted but nevertheless decisively place- and space-related orientation for territorial futures.

“Territories” collects contributions to an open discussion, started with an international conference in Hanover in April 2016 (see p. 10). The project and this book is part of the “HochschuldialogSüdeuropa” (University Dialog Southern Europe) funded by DAAD, with contributions from German, Italian and Spanish universities, with e.g. Manuel Gausa, Mosè Ricci and CarlesLlop. Practice and research projects and emerging research approaches from 18 scientists in the conference (organised in the book in “Flows, Places, Patterns, Fields, Practices, Tactics”) have been combined with a colloquium debate with 14 young scientists (“Visions, Processes”, and with a master student laboratory (“Workshop”). The introductory part (“Rural-Urban”) is drawn by the organising university partners from the Department of Architecture of the University of Palermo, and the Chair for Regional Building and Urban Planning of Leibniz Universität Hannover. Working and discussing about 44 multiplicities of places (see p. 8) in Europe and with global linkages provides an extended view of actual research and of actual challenges territories are facing.
TERRITORIES

FLOWS
Towards an Architecture of Territories
Jörg Schröder
Planning for the Rur-Urban Anthropocene
Maurizio Carta
AC+: Agro-cities, Agri-cultures
Manuel Gausa Navarro
Back to the Land
Mosé Ricci, Sara Favargiotti
The Contemporary Territorial Project
Carles Llop Torné

PROCESSES
Mediterranean Landscapes
Giorgia Tucci
The Challenges of Spatial Integration of a Transport Node
Yara Baiardi
Motorway as a TechnoEcoSystem
Gaia Sgaramella
(New) Resilient Landscapes
Giulia Garbarini
Historical Rural Buildings— a Territorial Resource?
Ines Lüder
Scenarios for Sustainable Development
Dirk Neumann, Maycon Sedrez, Vanessa Miriam Carlow
Transformation Processes
Sheila Mizushima

PLACES
Scenario building for Regiobranding
Maddalena Ferretti
R2: Rural Routes
Chiara Rizzi

PATTERNS
IAAC for Roma 20-25
Manuel Gausa Navarro, Silvia Brandi, Marco Ingrassia
A New Rur-Urban Utopia?
Barbara Lino

FIELDS
Cosengeles: A Multi-City
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“Rurban” Fringes
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Food Cities, Productive Landscapes
Emanuele Sommariva
Placemaking in Rural Areas
Luciana Macaluso

VISIONS
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Marta Carrasco Bonet
The Social Regeneration of Brownfields
Federica Scaffidi
Community Design Processes for Resilient Co-Territories
Giuseppe Mangano, Consuelo Nava
Portuality XXI
Beatrice Moretti
Territorial Visions beyond the Frontier of Water
Sabrina Sposito
Urban Resilience. The Ad-ap(c)tive City
Jessica Smeralda Oliva
Drosscape as Raw Material
Daniele Cannatella

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LabUrb
Laboratorio di urbanistica
[Prof. Maurizio Carta]

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